

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-44

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS
DROUGHT RESPONSE AND WATER CONSERVATION EFFORTS**

WHEREAS, the State of California is currently under severe drought conditions as a result of record low rainfall and the State's water supply shortage; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of California declared a drought emergency for several counties in California as of April 2021, and on July 8, 2021, Santa Clara County was added to the list of counties; and

WHEREAS, historical evidence indicates that the State of California drought conditions are increasing due to the prolonged periods of drought in recent years; and

WHEREAS, it is not known how long the severe drought conditions will last; and

WHEREAS, Santa Clara County is currently under extreme drought conditions as a result of low reservoirs supply and low water levels per the U.S. Drought Monitor; and

WHEREAS, measures are needed to encourage and promote water conservation efforts as ongoing practices now and in future years; and

WHEREAS, on June 9, 2021, the Santa Clara Valley Water District, which provides water to Cal Water Service in Los Altos, declared a water shortage emergency and mandated a 15% water use reduction compared to 2019 water usage and called on the County of Santa Clara to declare a countywide shortage emergency; and

WHEREAS, on July 14, 2021 California Water Service (Cal Water) Schedule 14.1 Water Shortage Contingency Plan with Staged Mandatory Reductions and Drought Surcharges became effective by approval of the California Public Utilities Commission; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Altos works in partnership with Cal Water, as Cal Water implements enforcement measures in accordance with Schedule 14.1 and promotes water conservation programs and rebates; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Altos recognizes that Cal Water has activated Stage 1 of its Schedule 14.1 and may utilize different Stages in Schedule 14.1 during the course of the drought conditions and thereby, the City resolution seeks to comply with any forthcoming requirements initiated by Cal Water; and

WHEREAS, efforts to conserve water during times of limited water supply have been assessed in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) per Section 15307, as an action taken by a regulatory agency as authorized by state law or local ordinance to assure the maintenance, restoration, or enhancement of a natural resource where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment; and

WHEREAS, if voluntary efforts by water users are not achieving the necessary results, the City of Los Altos and Cal Water will need to adopt more stringent water conservation measures.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Los Altos hereby recommends that the City of Los Altos residents, businesses, and water users make every effort to reduce water use.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Los Altos at a meeting thereof on the 24th day of August 2021 by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Lee Eng, Meadows, Weinberg, Vice Mayor Enander and
Mayor Fligor
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None



Neysa Fligor, MAYOR

Attest:



Andrea Chelemengos, MMC, CITY CLERK